

Bulletin



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Bald Eagle Leaves Endangered Species List

Today is one for the history books – it's the day the bald eagle officially soars off the list of threatened and endangered species under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). After plummeting to nearly 400 pairs in the lower 48 states in 1963, the population has rebounded to more than 10,000 pairs today. Secretary of the Interior Dirk Kempthorne announced the remarkable recovery of our national symbol in Washington, D.C. on June 28, 2007.

The legal protections afforded by the ESA, along with the crucial decision by the Environmental Protection Agency to ban the general use of the pesticide DDT in 1972, provided the springboard for recovery. Other efforts by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and its partners included captive breeding programs, reintroductions, law enforcement measures, protection of habitat around nest sites and land purchase and preservation activities.

The Service will work with state wildlife agencies to monitor bald eagles for at least five years. If it appears that eagles again need the protection of the ESA, the Service can propose to relist the species.

The bald eagle will continue to be protected by the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act and Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

For more information on bald eagles, please visit our webpage at <http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/BaldEagle.htm>

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the principal federal agency responsible for conserving the nature of America. For more on the Service and its commitment to scientific excellence, stewardship of lands and natural resources, cooperative conservation and public service, visit www.fws.gov

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